THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

A Confederation of the Salish, Upper Pend d'Oreilles and Kootenai Tribes

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November 25, 2008

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Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street SW, Room TW-A325 Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes nominate Tari L. Shaw to serve as the representative for low-income consumers on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors.

Tari is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. She is the Tribal Liaison between Ronan Telephone Company, her employer, and the CSKT Tribes.

She is the administrator of RTC's Lifeline Program and works diligently to raise customer awareness of the program's mission. Tari has done nationally recognized work promoting the Enhanced Lifeline Program to eligible consumers for all consumers on the Flathead Indian Reservation, even to those outside the area of the ILEC where she is employed. She made a Lifeline presentation at the Federal Communications Commission Indian Telecom Initiatives (ITI) conference in Salt Lake City in July 2008, and was applauded for her efforts on behalf of low-income families.

Tari personally interceded on behalf of elderly people with hearing disabilities to qualify them for TDD services with the State of Montana. She saw their need and did what she could to help those less fortunate.

Tari is a member of the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority Board for whom she is Secretary. The mission of S&K Housing is to provide the highest quality, affordable housing to the people of the Flathead Reservation, utilizing all resources to insure that services are provided in an efficient, economical, and timely manner.

For the past year Tari has been Recording Secretary for the Western Montana Telecommunications Consumers, a non-partisan group who work to protect the telecommunication consumers of Mission Valley, Lake County and beyond.

Tari knows the struggle of low-income people and also understands well the telecommunications needs of these individuals. She would bring a real and practical balance to the USAC Board because of her "in the field" experiences with low-income families and their needs combined with her knowledge of the telecommunications industry.

Tari would be an excellent choice for the USAC Board of Directors. I encourage you to select Tari for the position.

Thank you,

James H. Steele, Jr. Chairman

Tribal Council